WASHINGTON D.C. – Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, released the following statement reacting to President Barack Obama's enactment of a two year freeze in civilian pay for federal employees:

"At a time when our nation's seniors have been denied a cost-of-living-increase and private sector hiring is stagnant, it is both necessary and quite frankly, long over-due to institute a pay-freeze for the federal workforce. As Republicans outlined in our Pledge to America there are a number of actions the President and Congress should immediately act on to demonstrate a real commitment to reigning in the excessive growth and spending of the federal government.

"To put this in perspective, the Obama Administration says this two-year pay freeze will save $2 billion, however, just last week, OMB released a report revealing that the federal government's improper payments for FY-2010 totaled $125 billion, $15 billion higher than the previous year. It is unthinkable that we have come to accept having a bureaucracy that has institutionalized waste, fraud and abuse to the point where $125 billion in improper payments were made last year. The first place we should look to make progress on higher costs, increased debt and a stagnant economy is look inward at how taxpayer dollars are being spent and doing more to ensure that tens of billions of dollars are no longer erroneously paid out."

In the *Pledge to America* , Republicans proposed a number of actions to put government on a path to a balanced budget and to reign in the deficit:

- Cut government spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels

- Establish a hard cap on new discretionary spending

- Reduce Congress' budget

- Hold weekly votes on spending cuts

- End TARP once and for all

- Address government control of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

- Impose a net federal hiring freeze of non-security employees

- Root out government waste and sunset outdated and duplicative program

- Reform the budget process

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